



31st Vienna Circle Lecture

Jordi Cat

is Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at Indiana University. His research addresses connected issues in the philosophy of science, history of science and the history of philosophy of science in the 19th and 20th centuries with special attention to the limits and varieties of unity, objectivity, generality and precision.

He has published numerous articles and book chapters and is the co-author of *Otto Neurath, Philosophy Between Science and Politics*, the author of *Maxwell, Sutton and the Birth of Color Photography* and *Fuzzy Pictures as Philosophical Problem and Scientific Practice*, and co-editor of *Neurath Reconsidered*.

Abstract

The relations of money to philosophy are contextual and diverse, partly because of the variety of relations that can be identified, documented, and considered noteworthy, and partly because of the variety of aspects of money and philosophy one can select for—material, intellectual, behavioral, symbolic, etc. My examples here connect philosophers' lives and intellectual work as well as their different kinds of intellectual works and practices. In particular, my argument identifies cross-disciplinary, intellectual, social, and personal connections as they relate to the philosophical contributions of two Viennese figures central to the development of logical empiricism and the Vienna Circle in the 1920s: Otto Neurath (1882–1945) and Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889–1951).

Wittgenstein's attention to money in his philosophical work appears in his later, post-*Tractatus* period. His later perspective on philosophy and on money is social, but, I argue, the focus is individualistic. Through his attention to individual linguistic and monetary behaviors as social practices, Wittgenstein's examples play a demonstrative role in philosophical argument, as illustration and evidence. By contrast, Neurath's interest in money and its indirect relevance to philosophical considerations are informed by social goals and considerations of economic theory, application, methodology, and disciplinary identity. Unlike Wittgenstein's, his contribution to philosophy of science was informed by his different interest in money both in theory and practice.

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Money and Philosophy in Vienna: Otto Neurath and Ludwig Wittgenstein

Thursday, November 9, 2023
4 pm

Sky Lounge
Oskar-Morgenstern-Platz 1,
12. Stock
University of Vienna
1090 Vienna

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